

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 3-39, and 79-116 are pending in the application, claims 2 and 40-78 having been canceled. Claims 1, 3-39, 81-83, 104 and 105 are rejected under either 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, while claims 79, 80, 84-103 and 106-116 are allowed. The specific grounds for rejection, and applicants' response thereto, are set out in detail below.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1 is rejected for reciting a "probe" (singular) disposed on an annular fashion, thereby implicating a plurality of probes. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a plurality of a first probe.

Claims 81, 82, 104 and 105 are rejected as allegedly lacking antecedent basis for various terms. Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claims are amended to address the examiner's concerns.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to the effect is earnestly solicited. The examiner is invited to

contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-3184 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven L. Highlander
Reg. No. 37,642
Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 536-3184

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